PRODUCT SUPPORT MANUAL

Y1-03-0174
Rev. E

TerraFix™ 406 ***GPS I*** PLB
Product No. 2798.2
PLB-201

TerraFix™ 406 ***GPS I/O*** PLB
Product No. 2798.4
PLB-200

Personal Locator Beacon
FCC Type Approved

FCC ID:B66ACR-PLB200
FCC ID:B66ACR-PLB201

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COBHAM
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*** * * WARNING * * ***

THIS TRANSMITTER IS AUTHORIZED FOR USE ONLY DURING SITUATIONS OF GRAVE AND IMMINENT DANGER

*** * * DELIBERATE MISUSE MAY INCUR A SEVERE PENALTY * * ***

For proper use refer to section 2 – Responsible Use

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE PERFORMING ANY OF THE TESTS.

Forward

Congratulations and thank you for purchasing the ACR **TerraFix™ 406 GPS** Personal Locator Beacon. The combination of superior design, high quality raw materials and quality controlled manufacturing produce a product that will perform for years to come. The Test Facility at ACR can reproduce some of the harshest environmental conditions known to man. This assures that the life saving devices can stand up to the rigors found in any environment on earth. With proper care and maintenance, your PLB will be in service for years to come.

ACR is proud to be certified to the ISO 9001:2000, the International Standard for Quality.

This manual provides operation and maintenance instructions for the **TerraFix™ 406 GPS** PLB, hereinafter referred to as the PLB. This manual also describes the characteristics and details of the PLB System.

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SECTION 1 - REGISTRATION OF 406 MHz PLBS

1.1 Registration Importance

It is **mandatory** that the owner of this 406 MHz PLB registers it with the National Authorities*. All 406 MHz PLBs transmit a Unique Identifier Number (UIN) when activated. This UIN is programmed in the PLB based on the country in which the PLB was purchased. Registration provides the Search and Rescue (SAR) forces with emergency contact information, and will speed the launch of a rescue operation. The National Authorities use the information to verify if an actual emergency exists. Valuable Search and Rescue resources are wasted every year responding to false alarms. For PLBs that are not registered, SAR authorities will not know who you are, or who to contact regarding additional information of your current situation. This could **delay** the launch of a rescue operation.
**A National Authority is the governmental body that is responsible for PLB Registration Database administration for the country for which the PLB is programmed.*

1.2 Where to register

The owner of a 406 MHz PLB should register it with the National Authority of which the PLB was programmed, (typically the country where purchased), regardless of where you use your PLB. Each PLB is programmed with a UIN for the country where the unit is shipped, and will only be accepted for registration in that country. To verify the country, for which a PLB is programmed, see the label with the UIN on the back of the unit. Units that do not have a country specified on the UIN label are programmed for the United States. For a list of the national authorities in your area, please view them at http://www.cospas-sarsat.com/Management/listOfParticipants.htm

1.3 Registration in the United States

It is the Owner's responsibility and required by law to Register 406 MHz PLBs that are programmed for and purchased in the United States. The National Authority that accepts registrations in the United States is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The owner should complete the enclosed registration form (Do not confuse this with the ACR Electronics Warranty Card) and mail it with the pre-addressed; postage paid envelope to:

SARSAT Beacon Registration,
E/SP3, RM 3320, FB-4
NOAA/NESDIS
5200 Auth Rd.
Suitland, MD 20746-4304

PLB registration is also available online at: www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov

The information provided on the Registration Form is used only for rescue purposes. The Registration Form should be filled out and mailed immediately. Registration can be expedited by faxing the registration form or by completing the form online in the event the PLB is to be placed in immediate use.

Typically, registration forms will be entered in the 406 MHz PLB Registration Database within 48 hours of receipt. A confirmation letter, a copy of the actual registration and a proof-of-registration decal will be mailed to you within two weeks. When you receive these documents, please check the

information carefully and affix the decal to your PLB in the area marked "Beacon Decal here". If you do not receive confirmation, contact NOAA for additional information at: +1-888-212-7283.

1.3.1 Registration in Canada

The National Authority in Canada is the NSS (National Search & Rescue Secretariat). Canadian residents can register online at http:beacons.nss.gc.ca. For more information please contact the NSS at (613) 966-1504 or (800) 727-9414.

National Search and Rescue Secretariat
400-275 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2

1.4 Registration Outside of the United States

In countries other than the United States, 406 MHz PLBs are registered with that country's National Authority at the time of Purchase. The Sales agent should assist in filling out the forms and sending to that country's National Authority. To verify that the unit is properly programmed for that country, view the UIN label on the side of the unit. In the event that the PLB is not programmed for the country in which it has been purchased, the sales agent, (if properly equipped) can reprogram the unit for that country.

1.5 Change of ownership or contact information

It is the owner's responsibility to advise the National Authority of any change in the information on the registration form. If the current owner of the PLB is transferring the PLB to a new owner, the current owner is required to inform the National Authority by Letter, Fax or telephone, of the name and address of the new owner. The new owner of the PLB is required to provide the National Authority with all of the information requested on the Registration form. This obligation transfers to all subsequent owners. Registration forms are available from NOAA, call +1(888) 212-7283 or visit our website at www.acrelectronics.com.

1.6 Lost PLB's

Inform NOAA immediately at 1-888-212-SAVE (7283), or your national authority, that your PLB has been lost. They will update your PLB registration information with the appropriate information.

1.7 Stolen PLB's

Things That You Need To Do:

- Report to your local police department that the PLB has been stolen.
- Contact NOAA at 1-888-212-SAVE (7283), or your national authority, with the following information so your PLB registration information can be updated with the appropriate remarks:
  - Police Department Name
  - Police Phone Number
  - Police Case Number

If your PLB was to activate, the information you provide will be forwarded to the appropriate Search and Rescue Authorities who will ensure that your PLB gets back to you. And, if someone attempts to register a PLB reported as stolen, NOAA or your national authority will notify the appropriate Police Department.

Visit the COSPAS-SARSAT website for more detailed information: www.cospas-sarsat.org

SECTION 2 – RESPONSIBLE USE

2.1 The **TerraFix™ 406 GPS** PLB should only be used in situations of grave and imminent danger! What exactly does this mean? Technically speaking you should only activate your PLB when all other means of self rescue have been exhausted. This means you have tried to use your cellular/satellite phone, signaling mirrors, strobe lights, or any other safety device you may have. When all else fails and you feel your situation has truly become extreme, ask yourself the following questions:

Am I in danger of losing life, limb, eye sight, or valuable property if I am not rescued soon?
Am I in danger of not surviving the night or upcoming hours if not rescued soon?

If you answer yes with confidence to these questions, it is time to activate your PLB.

SECTION 3 - FALSE ALARMS

3.1 Preventing False Alarms

- Ensure that your PLB is registered with NOAA or your national authority. This does nothing to reduce false alarm rates, but does have a dramatic effect on the impact of a false alarm. If the PLB is properly registered, the situation will be resolved with a phone call most of the time. It will also help speed rescue in an actual distress.
- Test your PLB in accordance with the recommendations enclosed in this manual.
- Use care when leaving your PLB and with whom you leave it with. Ensure that they are aware of the device and know the ramifications of causing a false alarm. A lot of false alarms are generated by curious individuals.
- Maintain your PLB. Ensure that the batteries are within their expiration date and that all manufacturer recommendations are followed.
- Finally, realize that the COSPAS-SARSAT satellites are very good at what they do, detecting emergency PLBs. An activation of a 406 MHz PLB for just a few seconds will usually be detected. After a few minutes, it will usually be detected and located. This is good if you're in distress, but if you're not, you just generated a false alarm.

3.2 Should there be an inadvertent activation or false alarm, it must be reported to the nearest search and rescue authorities. The information that should be reported includes the PLB Unique Identifier Number (UIN), Date, Time, duration and cause of activation, as well as location of PLB at the time of activation. Outside the United States contact your National Authority.

3.3 To report false alarms in the United States contact any of the following:

AFRCC-United States Air Force Rescue Coordination Center Tel: (800) 851-3051

SECTION 4 - OPERATION

4.1 General

The **TerraFix™ 406 GPS** PLB models are designed to be manually deployed and activated. It is only to be activated when all other means of self-rescue have been exhausted. Activation of the PLB tells Search and Rescue who you are, where you are, and that you are facing a life threatening situation.

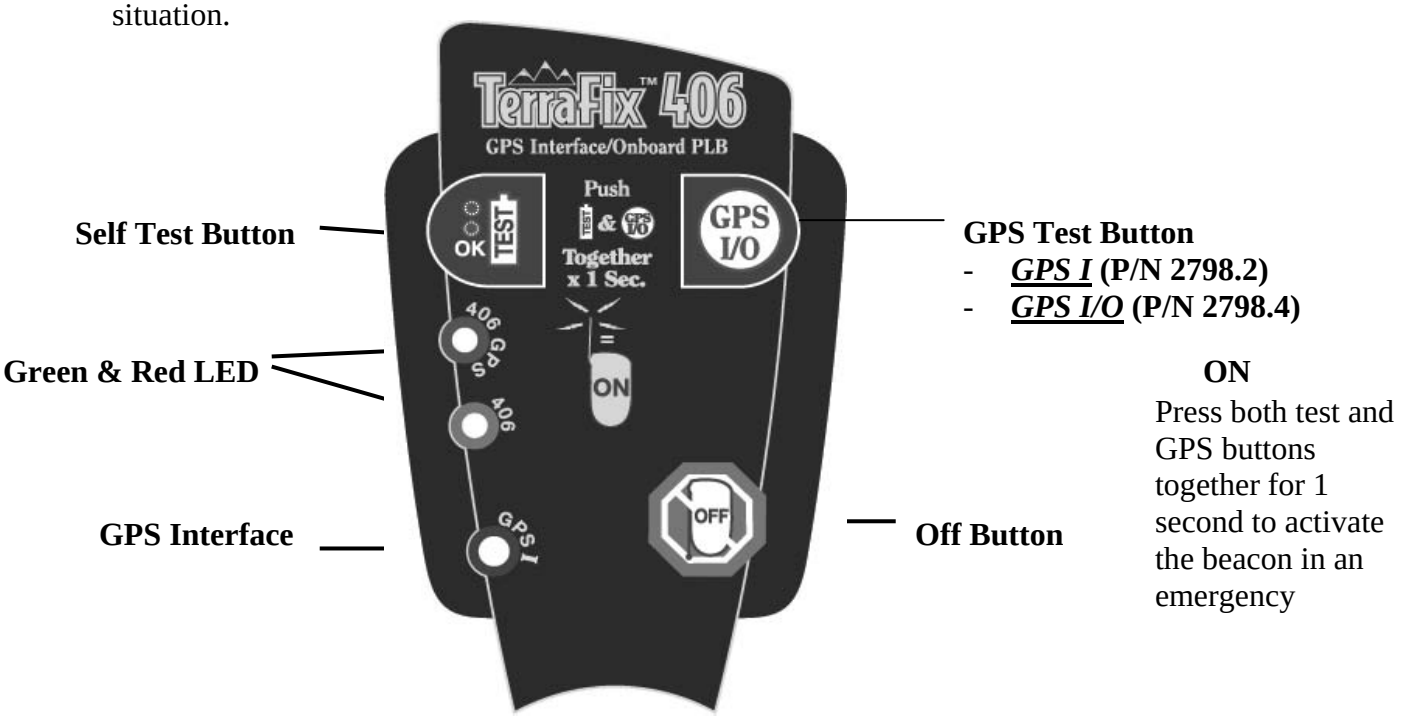


Figure 1. Key Pad Functions (P/N 2798.4 shown)

4.2 TerraFix™ 406 GPS PLB Emergency Activation

4.2.1 Activation

To activate your PLB in an emergency situation, unfasten the antenna from the case or holster and move it into the upright position (See figure 2). Lift the holster cover revealing the PLB keypad (see figure 3). Depress the "self-test" and "***GPS I***" or "***GPS I/O***" buttons simultaneously for at least 1/2 second and less than 5 seconds (see figure 4). Your PLB is now activated. While transmitting your emergency signal, the red LED will flash once every 2 seconds alerting you that your PLB is activated. If GPS data is present in the PLB via the ***GPS I*** or ***GPS O*** the red LED will turn off and the green LED will take over flashing once every 2 seconds.

4.2.2 Activation with *GPS I* (P/N 2798.2 and P/N 2798.4)

The **TerraFix™ 406 *GPS I* and *GPS I/O*** are equipped with a ***GPS I***nterface. Prior to activating your PLB you can download your GPS LAT/LON into the PLB using an external GPS receiver and the ***GPS I***nterface cable provided with the PLB. Once your external GPS has acquired good global positioning data, press the GPS test button for at least ½ second and no longer than 5 seconds and your GPS data will download into the PLB (for full instructions see Section 4.7.2). Once you activate your PLB, your GPS coordinates are included in the distress signal. The green LED will immediately start flashing every 2 seconds to alert you that your PLB is activated and transmitting your GPS coordinates with the 406 MHz signal.

4.2.3 Activation with ***GPS I/O*** (P/N 2798.4 Only)

The **TerraFix™ 406** ***GPS I/O*** is also equipped with an ***O***nboard GPS receiver. Once activated the **TerraFix™ 406** ***GPS O***nboard GPS engine will start up and search to find your LAT/LON and incorporate it into your 406 MHz signal. In the case when external and internal GPS are present, the internal GPS data will have priority at activation.

When the **TerraFix™ 406** ***GPS I/O*** is turned ON, the ***GPS O***nboard receiver is also immediately turned ON and will immediately begin acquiring data. As soon as the GPS receiver acquires good positioning data the red LED will stop blinking and the green LED will begin flashing once every 2 seconds. Once good global positioning data has been obtained, the GPS receiver waits for 20 minutes before looking for new positioning data again. If for any reason a time period of 4 hours passes without the GPS receiver being able to update the last good set of GPS coordinates, the message transmitted by the **TerraFix™ 406** ***GPS I/O*** will revert to default data. At this point the green LED will stop blinking and the red LED will flash once every 2 seconds. If at any time after this, good GPS data is obtained, this data will be transmitted, the red LED will stop blinking and the green LED will begin flashing again**.**

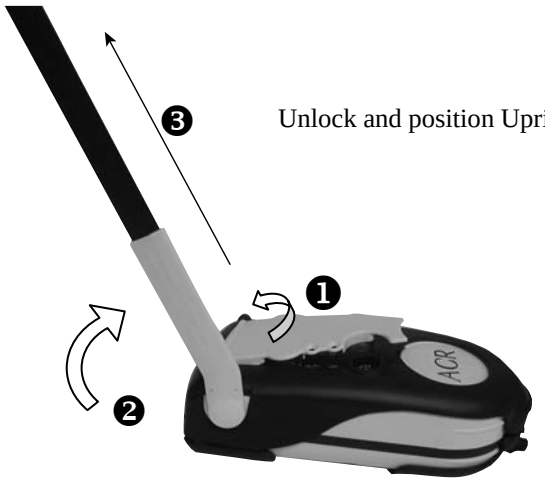


Figure 2 Antenna Position

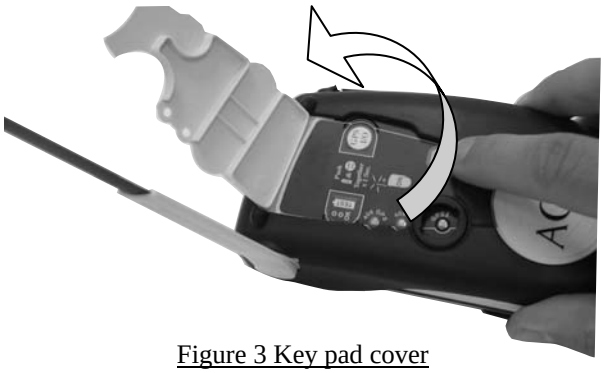


Figure 3 Key pad cover
Open the key pad cover for access to
Test or activate the beacon

Figure 4 Activation
Press both test buttons simultaneously for more than ½ second and no longer than 5 seconds

Figure 5 Deactivation
Press red OFF button for more than ½ second

4.2.4 GPS Antenna Orientation (2798.4 ONLY)

When activated it is critical that you do not cover the front bottom portion of the PLB with any body part, water, clothing, etc. The GPS Antenna is located under the front bottom portion of the case behind the embossed ACR logo. To ensure proper operation it needs to be unobstructed with a clear view to the sky. Avoid submerging this portion of the PLB in water if possible, as water will shield and inhibit the GPS receiver and may cause difficulties obtaining LAT/LON coordinates.

4.3 406/121.5 Antenna Position

For maximum performance you must deploy the PLB antenna into the proper position (see figure 2). The antenna will snap into place and be slightly slanted to the side. Be sure the antenna is positioned facing the sky and avoid submerging in water. If afloat employ all means to keep the PLB out of the water and the antenna dry. For best results it is important to keep the antenna dry and away from the water. Water acts as a detractor from the performance and reduces the PLB's effectiveness.

4.4 Deactivation

To deactivate your PLB, depress the "OFF" button for 1 second (see figure 5).
Once off, all blinking LED's will stop signifying that the PLB is no longer sending your rescue message.

4.5 Self Test

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE PERFORMING ANY OF THE TESTS.
BE PREPARED TO RECORD DATA FROM THE TEST

Self test is initiated by holding the self test button (see figure 1) for at least ½ second and less than five seconds. Your PLB will sound an initial beep and green LED (Light Emitting Diode) flash to signify the test has begun. The green LED will flash a second time to indicate that the self test was successful.
TerraFix™ 406 GPS I (P/N 2798.2) Self tested components: Data Integrity and Memory;
406 MHz Synthesizer; RF Power/Battery
TerraFix™ 406 GPS I/O (P/N 2798.4) Self tested components: Data Integrity and Memory;
406 MHz Synthesizer; RF Power/Battery; GPS header

If your PLB flashes two green LED's, the test has been successfully completed. If you encounter only the initial green LED flash alone, your PLB has failed the self test, please contact ACR Electronics or an authorized Battery Replacement Center for servicing of your PLB.

NOTE: During a self test your PLB will send a 406 MHz signal coded as self-test to the satellite system. The homing signal at 121.5 MHz is inhibited during self test; this allows you to test your PLB any time during the day without causing any false alarms.

4.6 Battery Witness Seal Life

ACR strongly recommends performing the self test on the **TerraFix™ 406 GPS** on a monthly basis. If your PLB flashes an initial Red LED at the beginning of the Self Test, this indicates that your electronic witness has been broken and you have used more than 1 hour of battery life. While the PLB will still operate normally in an emergency, ACR strongly recommends you have your battery replaced and the electronic witness reset to ensure that you will have 24 hours of battery power should you ever need to activate your unit in an emergency

4.7 GPS Testing

4.7.1 *GPS O* (Onboard) Test (P/N 2798.4 only)

This test is **NOT** necessary as 100% of all Onboard GPS receivers that leave ACR have been tested to ensure they perform perfectly. However, if you would like to ensure your Onboard GPS is working properly, please follow these instructions very closely.

Warning: To conserve battery power the following test should not be performed more than *once* during the five-year life of the battery pack!

Note: The GPS Antenna is located under the bottom front portion of the case behind the embossed ACR logo. It is imperative that this location not be obstructed during self test or activation to ensure that the GPS antenna is acquiring your latitude and longitude position. **This test must be performed outside with a clear view of the sky.**

The **TerraFix™ 406 GPS PLB** is fitted with an internal Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver that will determine the latitude and longitude of its position. To test the internal GPS you must be outdoors and have a clear view of the sky. **The PLB must remain under observation in order to witness the results of the test. In order to best view the results, avoid bright sunlight and noisy locations.** Depress and hold the GPS I/O button until one Red LED flash, beep and one Green LED flash, beep are observed. (about 5 seconds apart) Then release the GPS I/O button. The live test of the internal GPS has begun. The GPS will remain ON until LAT/LON position coordinates have been obtained or until 10 minutes has elapsed. If valid navigation data has been obtained, the GPS will be turned OFF and the green LED will light for at least 3 seconds. This LAT/LON data is not saved for use when the PLB is turned ON. The green LED is proof that the GPS is functioning properly and that the PLB is in a location or environment where it can receive the necessary signals from satellites. If the GPS does not acquire good navigation data, the GPS will turn OFF after 10 minutes and there will be **no** successful green LED indication. This test should **not** be performed more than once during the five-year life of the battery pack to prevent excessive battery drain.

4.7.2 Preload external *GPS I* (Interface)

The **TerraFix™ 406 GPS PLB** (P/N 2798.2 and 2798.4) can interface with a handheld GPS receiver to provide your LAT/LON to SAR forces and narrow your search area to 110 yards (100 meters). The PLB can accept NMEA 0183 version 1.5 and above GPS Data (format GPGGA sentence) through its infra-red interface. The PLB can be forced to update its GPS data by pressing the *GPS I* or *GPS I/O* button for at least 1/2 second and not longer than 5 seconds only when the beacon is off. The TerraFix PLB will hold the last GPS coordinates in memory for 4 hours before returning to the default. Upon activation, your GPS data will be transmitted to the GEOSAR satellite on the very first burst. TerraFix 406 PLB will interface with most GPS receivers, if you are not sure if your receiver is NMEA 0183 compliant please check the interface settings listed in your GPS manual.

Maximum 500 preloads during the life of the battery.

To optimize your GPS Interface feature be sure that your portable GPS receiver is equipped with the following:

NMEA 0183 Version 1.5 or higher
GPGGA sentence is enabled

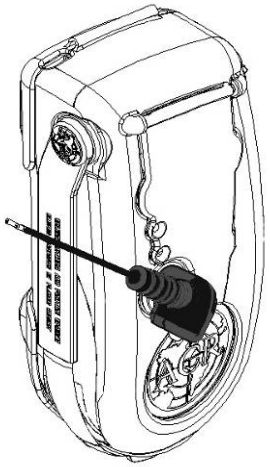


Figure 6.
GPS Interface with holster

Figure 7.
GPS Interface without holster

4.7.3 *GPS I* (Interface) connection

The **TerraFix™ 406 GPS PLB** (P/N 2798.2 and 2798.4) comes standard with a GPS interface cable with serial port adapter. Connect the serial port adapter to your external GPS connection data cable. If the holster is on the PLB, align the two tabs on the bottom of the interface with the holes in on the holster directly above the interface port (see figure 6). Push down and turn to secure the interface cable to the holster. If the holster in not on the PLB simply hold the interface head on top of the interface port with your finger (see figure 7).

SECTION 5 – PLB Holster

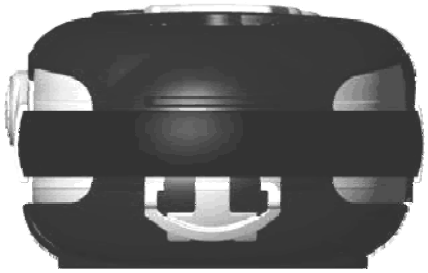
5.1 The TerraFix™ comes standard with a protective holster that will help protect your PLB from damage. To install the holster, deploy the external antenna and slide antenna through the open hole located on the left side of the holster. Slide the holster to the base of the PLB so that the open antenna hole is flush with the side of the PLB. Close the back of the holster around the back of the PLB and clip into the front of the holster. Once secured, wrap the external antenna around the base of the holster and clip into antenna slot on the top right side of the holster (See figure 8).

Note: Use extreme caution; do not apply the holster over the external antenna. In an emergency it is critical that you deploy the antenna. If the holster is covering the antenna you will not be able to deploy properly.

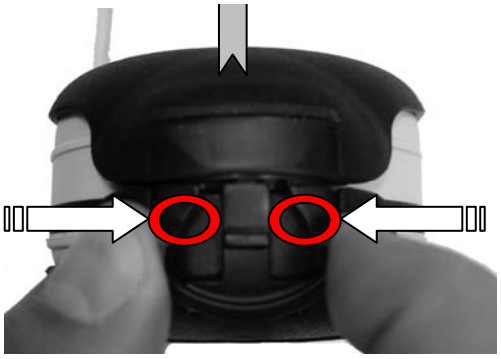
5.2 The TerraFix™ holster has been designed to accommodate your extreme adventures. You can secure your PLB directly to backpack webbing straps or belts to ensure the PLB is close at hand. Ensure the PLB is secured firmly and is protected before heading out to avoid damage or loss. ACR recommends that you secure your PLB someplace that is easily accessible in case of an emergency for rapid activation.

Note: Use care when attaching items to your PLB. Clipping attachments, carabineers, rope, webbing, etc. will all add weigh and can affect the buoyancy of the PLB. Your PLB **may <u>not float</u>** if items have been attached to it.

Figure 8.
Removable Holster



To secure antenna when the holster is on your TerraFix™, be sure to deploy antenna prior to placing the holster onto the unit. Slide the antenna through the holster to secure it to the beacon. The holster will clip together at the bottom of holster. Rotate antenna into down position in order to wrap it around the holster to lock it in place. Make sure the antenna runs between the two guides on the bottom of the holster. This will prevent the antenna from slipping out of position. Finally lock the antenna into place by engaging the tab located on the antenna into the slot provided on the top right corner of the holster. Slide it in to lock in place.



To Open the Holster, squeeze inward on the two tabs located on the bottom clip and pull up on the top of the holster. Rotate antenna up, and slide the holster off around the antenna.

SECTION 6 - CARE AND MAINTENANCE

6.1 Carefully inspect the PLB case and gasket for any visible cracks. Cracks may admit moisture, which could cause a malfunction. In the event of any cracking or structural damage, the PLB should be immediately sent to ACR for evaluation and repairs, (1-800-432-0227).

6.2 **Do Not** clean your PLB with household cleaners and hydrocarbon materials such as gasoline, benzene, bleach, sanitizers, soaps, etc., simply wipe your PLB down with a damp cloth until clean.

6.3 Battery Replacement

Power is provided by self contained long life batteries with a five-year recommended replacement cycle. *See Factory Authorized Service Center for replacement.*

The batteries (P/N 1099.2) must be replaced by the date indicated on the PLB. At each inspection, check the time remaining until replacement is required. Batteries should be replaced if the PLB has been activated for any use other than the self test.
Batteries should be replaced at an Authorized Battery Replacement Center for the warranty to remain in effect (if the 5 year warranty has not expired). Services include: replacement of battery packs and disposal of expired lithium batteries, gasket and O-ring examination and replacement if necessary, lubricated gaskets and O-ring, air pressure test to ensure water tight integrity, and a full electronics diagnostic check.

NOTE: This unit is a life saving device and all repairs and replacements need to be made by ACR or an authorized ACR battery replacement center to ensure the beacon will perform properly when called upon. Batteries can be replace in the field if necessary (replacing your own batteries will void your warranty, contact ACR at 1-800-432-0227 for a replacement battery dealer nearest you), however it is highly recommended to have your beacon serviced once you have returned from the field to ensure the integrity of the beacon has not been compromised.

For the nearest location of an authorized ACR service center, call 1-800-432-0227 (toll free) or visit our website at www.acrelectronics.com

6.4 The **TerraFix™ 406 GPS** contains 2 lithium battery packs.

6.5 Battery Disposal

Please dispose of Lithium batteries in accordance with local waste disposal regulations

SECTION 7 - THE SEARCH AND RESCUE SYSTEM

7.1 General Overview

The **TerraFix™ 406 GPS** PLB provides distress alerting via radio transmission on 406 MHz to satellites of the COSPAS-SARSAT network and to the GEOSAR network that includes GPS latitude and longitude coordinates when GPS data is present.

The message transmitted by the **TerraFix™ 406 GPS** is unique for each PLB, which provides identification of the transmitter through computer access of registration files maintained by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or other National Authority. **Remember**, if your PLB is **not registered**, Search and Rescue (SAR) Authorities do not know who you are, or how to contact anyone who might know anything about your situation (Refer to section1).

Once the **TerraFix™ 406 GPS** signal (406 MHz) is relayed through the LEOSAR and/or GEOSAR network, SAR forces determine who is closest, then track the signal using the 121.5 MHz homing frequency for intermediate and short-range location.

7.2 Satellite Detection

7.2.1 The **TerraFix™ 406 GPS** transmits an encoded phase modulated radio signal to the satellite portion of the COSPAS-SARSAT System. The system was developed and implemented by the COSPAS-SARSAT Partners (Russian Federation, Canada, France and the United States).

7.2.2 COSPAS-SARSAT is an international system that uses Russian Federation and United States low altitude, near-polar orbiting satellites (LEOSAR) that assist in detecting and locating activated 121.5/243 MHz PLBs and 406 MHz Satellite PLBs.

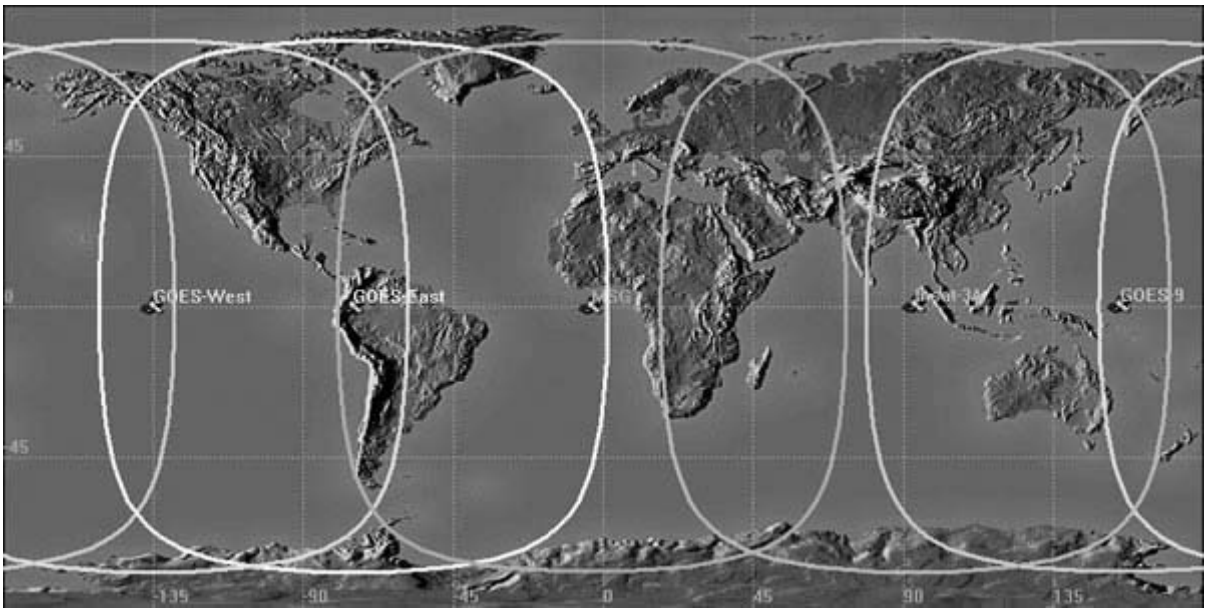
7.2.3 COSPAS and SARSAT satellites receive distress signals from satellite PLBs transmitting on the frequency of 406 MHz. The COSPAS-SARSAT 406 MHz PLB signal consists of a transmission of non-modulated carriers followed by a digital message format that provides identification data. The 406 MHz system uses Satellite-borne equipment to measure and store the Doppler-shifted frequency along with the PLB digital data message and time of measurement. This information is transmitted in real time to an earth station called the Local User Terminal (LUT), which may be within the view of the satellite, as well as being stored for later transmission to other LUTs.

7.2.4 The LUT processes the Doppler-shifted signal from the LEOSAR and determines the location of the PLB; then the LUT relays the position of the distress to a Mission Control Center (MCC) where the distress alert and location information is immediately forwarded to an appropriate Rescue Coordination Center (RCC). The RCC dispatches Search and Rescue (SAR) forces.

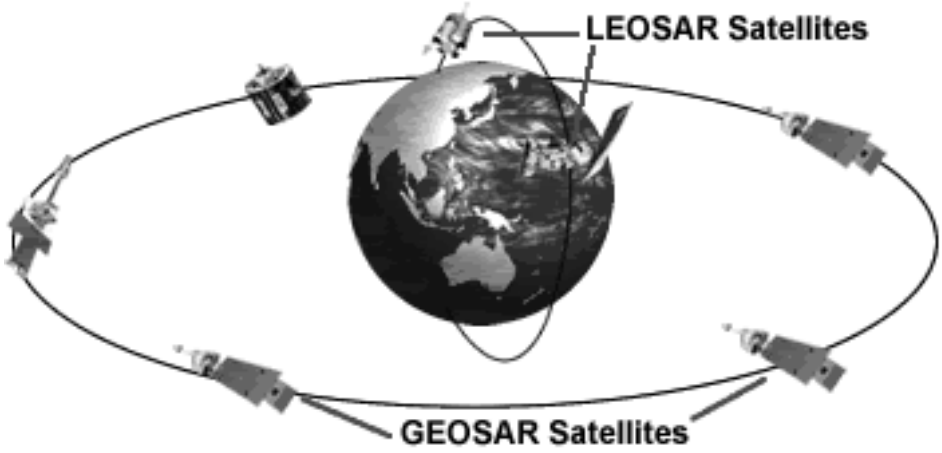
7.2.5 The COSPAS-SARSAT System includes 39 LEOSAR LUT stations, 9 GEOSAR LUT stations and over 19 Mission Control Centers that provide real-time as well as global-mode coverage for the Northern Hemisphere, while the Southern Hemisphere is presently served primarily by the global mode. Additional LUTs and MCCs are planned for installation in the near future both in the northern and southern hemispheres.

The addition of the GEOSAR Satellite system greatly improves the reaction time for a SAR event. This satellite system has no Doppler capabilities at 406 MHz, but will relay the distress alert to any of the LUT stations. When there is GPS data included in the distress message, SAR authorities instantly know your location to within 110 yards. This speeds up the reaction time by not having to wait for one of the LEOSAR satellite to pass overhead.

7.2.6 Because most of the search and rescue forces presently are not equipped to home in on the 406 MHz Satellite PLB signal, homing must be accomplished at 121.5 MHz.



GEOSAR SATELLITE COVERAGE
Figure 9



SATELLITE ORBIT
Figure 10

SECTION 8 - AUTHORIZATIONS

8.1 The **TerraFix™ 406 GPS** PLB meets the requirements of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Part 95 Subpart K , European R&TTE Directive

8.2 Characteristics

The **TerraFix™ 406 GPS** PLB is a buoyant, battery operated Personal Locator Beacon. The PLB case, with its external antenna, is waterproof. The semiconductor circuits are mounted within the case assembly which also contains the battery power supply. A keypad with "self test," "GPS I or I/O" and "Off" buttons are installed on the case, along with an internal beeper and two LEDs. The **TerraFix™ 406 GPS** models accept external GPS data via an I/R interface cable that is included

with your PLB. The **TerraFix™ 406 *GPS I/O*** (P/N 2798.4) also contains an *O*nboard GPS engine that will acquire your LAT/LON if an external GPS receiver is not present.

SECTION 9 - TECHNICAL DATA -TerraFix™ 406

9.1 The **TerraFix™ 406 GPS** PLB is available in two combinations. The following product codes define the options available to meet specific operational requirements:

9.2 Applicable Documents

NSS PLB01-01	Standard for 406 MHz Satellite PLB's, Canada
COSPAS-SARSAT	Document C/S T.001 & T.007 (spec for 406 MHz distress beacons)
RSS 187	Radio Standards Specification for Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons, Emergency Locator Transmitter, and Personal Locator Beacon
FCC	Part 95, Subpart K
ETSI	302152/1 version 2003

9.3 Specifications

406 MHz Transmitter

Frequency	406 MHz
Frequency Stability	±2 parts per billion/100ms
Output Power	5 watts
Digital Message Format	
Long message / serialized Message protocol	Standard Location (2798.2 – 2798.4)
Duration	520 ms
Rate	400 bps
Encoding	Biphase L
Modulation	±1.1 radians peak

PLB's leave ACR with Serialized code but can be reprogrammed at a service center to other coded formats including nationality of registration.

121.5 MHz Transmitter

Frequency	121.5 MHz
Frequency Tolerance	±50 ppm
Output Power	25 mW PEP
Morse Code "P" ID	every 50 seconds (approximately)
Modulation	
Type	AM (3K20A3N)
Sweep Range	400 to 1200 Hz
Sweep Rate	3 Hz
Duty Cycle	37.5%
Morse P	AM (2K00A2A)
Antenna	
Frequency	406 & 121.500 MHz
Polarization	Vertical
VSWR	Less than 1.5/1

General/Environmental

Battery Life	
Operating Class I	24 hours minimum @ -40°C (future accessory)
Operating Class II	24 hours minimum @ -20°C
Replacement Interval	5 years or after use in an emergency

Batteries meet the UN Classification for Non-dangerous goods

Size	
PLB less Antenna	1.74 x 5.71 x 3.03 in (4.4 x 14.5 x 7.7 cm)

Material		High impact and UV resistant plastic
Color		ACRtreuse
Weight (less holster)		12 oz (338 grams)
Waterproof		Exceeds RTCM Standards - Factory Tested to 10 meters at room temperature
Temperature Range		
Operating	Class I	-40°C to +55°C (-40°F to +131°F) (future accessory)
	Class II	-20°C to +55°C (-4°F to +131°F)
Storage	Class I	-50°C to +70°C (-58°F to +158°F) (future accessory)
	Class II	-40°C to +70°C (-40°F to +158°F)

SECTION 10 - GPSI/O Frequently Asked Question

Q. How do I download position data from my GPS to my PLB?

*A. You must have a NMEA 0183 version 1.5 or higher output ready GPS unit and a **GPS I**nterface cable. The NMEA 0183 optical **I**nterface connector supplied with your TerraFix must be connected to the GPS interface cable using a universal serial adapter. Turn on your GPS unit and allow it to acquire the necessary satellites. Make sure the output is set to NMEA 0183 with the GPGGA sentence configured if necessary. Connect the NMEA 0183 interface cable to the GPS unit and the TerraFix. The TerraFix will initiate a data preload when the **GPS I** **or** **GPS I/O** button is pressed for more than ½ second and less than 5 seconds.*

Q. How long does it take to down load position coordinates from my external GPS to my PLB?

A. Upon connection with a properly operating and fully acquired GPS unit, the ACR PLB usually take less than four minutes to synchronize and download coordinates. Subsequent position updates will take from a few seconds to no more than 20 seconds to complete.

Q. How does the GPS data get from my GPS to the PLB?

*A. The GPS unit transmits data as electrical energy through the **GPS I**nterface cable to the ACR optical interfacing connector. The ACR optical interfacing connector has an infrared LED and sensor located in it. The electrical energy supplied by the GPS unit is converted to infrared light in the ACR optical interfacing plug. Data from the GPS unit is transmitted via infrared light to the PLB through the translucent PLB top cap or lens when the ACR optical **I**nterface plug is properly engaged. The PLB has an infrared detector that decodes the light pulses. ACR uses an optical **I**nterface design to eliminate the potential for leaks and corrosion common to mechanically interfacing devices. An external LED flashes to confirm that GPS data is being sent from the handheld GPS.*

Q. Can I download information once my PLB is turned on and activated?

A. No. You must download your GPS coordinates into the TerraFix™ prior to activating your PLB. Once activated your PLB will transmit your LAT/LON coordinates to the GEOSAR satellites. If no GPS data has been downloaded into the PLB it will rely on the LEOSAR satellites to obtain the PLB's position using Doppler shift. If your PLB contains an onboard GPS (P/N 2798.4) the GPS engine will be turned on upon activation and will search to acquire your LAT/LON.

Q. Does my PLB need any special set up to accept GPS data from an external GPS?

*A. No. If it is hooked to a valid data source, that has been properly set up to deliver NMEA format with the GPGGA sentence, it will automatically attempt to download the data once the **GPS I** or **GPS I/O** button has been depressed and will form an emergency message that includes the position data when the preload function is initiated.*

Q. Does my GPS unit have to be set up in a special way to transmit position coordinates via the NMEA 0183 Interface?

A. For the GPS to transmit data, go to GPS setup and make sure the NMEA 0183 output is turned on and the GGA NMEA sentence is selected or turned on. Consult your GPS user's manual for information on configuring the NMEA output.

Q. What is the maximum length my GPS cable can be?

A. ACR Electronics recommends a maximum length of 400 feet using 24 AWG wire. Contact your GPS owner's manual for more detailed information.

Q. What happens if I plug the GPS into the PLB first and press the *GPS I* or *I/O* button without waiting for the GPS to acquire satellites?

A. The PLB will function normally in the off position, but will not store GPS coordinates. As soon as the GPS has acquired satellites the data will be transferred to the PLB. If the PLB is activated no GPS data will be accepted and your PLB will rely on the LEOSAR satellites to obtain its position by using Doppler shift.

Q. What happens if I have downloaded GPS into my PLB and the *O*nboard GPS engine acquires new GPS data (P/N 2798.4 only)?

A. If external and internal GPS are present, the internal GPS data will have priority at activation. If the internal GPS has not been able to acquire your LAT/LON coordinates prior to your first burst, the downloaded GPS coordinates will accompany the UIN to the satellites. Once good navigational coordinates are obtained by the onboard GPS, these coordinates will be updated into the distress message and the downloaded coordinates will be eliminated.

Q. How long does the PLB hold data in memory?

A. 4 hours. If new GPS data has not been downloaded, the TerraFix will return to default mode and utilize the LEOSAR satellites to obtain the position using Doppler shift.

Q. How much power is needed to run the IR LED on the GPS cable?

A. The minimum power needed is 3.3V_{DC} and 2mA

11.0 LIMITED WARRANTY

11.1 This product is warranted against factory defect in material and workmanship for a period of five years from date of purchase or receipt as a gift. During the warranty period ACR Electronics, Inc. will repair or, at its option, replace at no cost to you for labor, materials or return transportation, provided you obtain a Return Authorization from ACR Electronics, Inc., 5757 Ravenswood Road, Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. 33312-6645. To obtain a Return Authorization, call our Customer Service Department at (800) 432-0227. This warranty does not apply if the product has been damaged by accident or misuse, or as a result of service or modification performed by an unauthorized factory.

Except as otherwise expressly stated in the previous paragraph, the COMPANY MAKES NO REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AS TO MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, OR ANY OTHER MATTER WITH RESPECT TO THIS PRODUCT. The Company shall not be liable for, consequential or special damages.

In order to place the warranty in effect, the accompanying registration card must be returned to ACR Electronics, Inc. within ten days of purchase.